Commercial Production of smokeless coal

696. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a smokeless type of coal called (CILCOKE) has been developed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether commercial production and supply thereof has commenced, if so, where and what is the installed production capacity thereof; and

(c) what is the cost of production per tonne of this type of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) A low temperature carbonisation plant set up by Coal India Ltd. At Dankuni near Calcutta has already started commercial production of CILCOKE. This fuel is smokeless and is ideal for domestic use. The plant can process 7.13 lakh tonnes of non-coking coal from Raniganj coalfields annually for production of 4.35 lakh tonnes of semi coke (CILCOKE), 42,875 tonnes of various tar chemicals and other by products per year alongwith 18 million cubic feet of gas per day.

(c) The cost of production per tonne (average of last six months) of CILCOKE is around Rs. 3340/- per tonne based on present capacity utilisation of 20 to 25%. Production cost at full capacity utilization would be significantly lower.

Funds earmarked for coal gassification projects

697. SHRMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 391 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st December, 1992 and state the quantum of investment which Government propose to make within certain time frame on coal gassification project being initiated in collaboration with CSIR alongwith the break-up of funding details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): A 30 Megawatt (MW) capacity demonstration plant for generation of power through Integrated Gassification Combined Cycle (IGCC) system is proposed to be implemented with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) as the nodal agency. The duration of the project is 5 years and the total cost of the project is estimated as Rs. 150 crores. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been tentatively allocated for the project for the year 1993-94. Fund requirement for the subsequent years will be decided on the basis of resource availability.

Non-acceptance of raising coal prices by consumers

698. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA CHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent orders raising the coal prices have not been appreciated by the general consumers, trade circles and financial experts on the ground that it would increase the rate of inflation;

(b) whether the administrative action in the matter has caused a severe below on the economy which is yet to recover from various maladies; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The

increase in prices of coal announced by Government with effect from 17.2.1993 is of the order of 12.8 per cent in case of coals produced by Coal India Limited companies and 11.8 per cent for coals produced by Singareni Collieries Company Limited. The revision of prices for coal had become overdue on the basis of the escalation formula prescribed by the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices, since the indices of the various inputs in the formula had moved upwards and needed to be neutralised.

The price of soft coke which is commonly used in the domestic sector has not bee increased.

The impact of the increase on consumers of coal has been estimated to be minimal. The impact on Whole sale Prices Index has been estimated at 0.32 per cent.

Facilities for Workers of BCCL

699. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of drinking water in whole area of BCCL and even the open wells are dried up today;

(b) what arrangements Government are going to make to provide this facility of the workers in coalfields;

(c) whether Government are aware that the medical facilities are not available and also other welfare measures for the workers and the employees of coal fields are absolutely neglected; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what remedial action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have informed that they have already generated a capacity to supply 16.70 million gallons of water per day to the coal workers. Short term and long term schemes have been formulated to augment the capacity further to meet the increasing requirements in this regard.

(c) and (d) Medical facilities to the workers in BCCL are provided through 15 hospitals with 1219 beds, 100 dispensaries and 6 ayurvedic dispensaries. The hospitals and dispensaries are manned by 369 doctors including 83 specialists. Adequate number of ambulances are also provided. Similarly other welfare facilities such as houses, educational institutions, health care etc. are also provided to the coal workers and continuous efforts are made to improve the same to the extent possible, to match the requirements.

CBI raid on over-reporting of production

700. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a raid has been conducted by CBI in KOCP (Kusunda Open Caste Project) in BCCL regarding over reporting of production;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the CBI raid; and

(c) whether Government are aware that over reporting of production has become a fashion and consumers are being supplied black stones instead of coal to conceal their over-reporting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Surprise checks of stocks carried out by CBI from 8.9.1992 to 10.9.92 in Kusunda Opencast Project of Bharat Coking Coal Limited reviealed prime facie stock shortage of the order of 6 lakh M.T. of coal. Houses of General Manager (Kusunda Area) and Dy. CME of Kusunda Opencast Project were searched by CBI on 28.9.1992 and some incriminating documents consisting of pass-books, FDRs, etc. of the concerned officers were recovered.

(c) Due to increasing production from opencast mines, there have been some complaints from power houses and other consumers of non coking coal regarding supply of oversized coal and also presence of extraneous material in coal. Coal companies are taking steps to eliminate stones, shales etc. getting mixed up with coal sent to the consumers.